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QUEEN OF FRUITS.

PEACH CULTURE:

BY

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HARKER'S PEACH CULTURE.

Plow your ground deep; harrow well; then furrow out twelve feet each way.

Prune off the ends of the roots from the under side. Reduce the top by cutting above the outside bud, in order to open the top of the tree. Your tree is now ready for setting.

Plant the tree as it stood in the nursery. Remove the soil sufficient to admit the entire roots, and with your fingers carefully straighten them and put the fine dirt around the fibres. Plant about five inches deep only.

When the tree is planted, put two quarts of ashes around the collar. Then pour on to the ashes one gallon of hot soap suds. With soft soap and a woolen cloth, rub well the body.

Plant corn among the trees in three feet rows the first year; two rows the second year, and one row the third year. Plant no corn in the tree row until you come within fifteen inches of the tree, when you plant a circle of corn—say eight grains.

On the 1st of August with a knife cut or shorten in each limb one half of present year's growth, and always cut above the outside bud. Before winter sets in, crimp the circle of stalks to the roots of the tree, and bring them up the body and fasten them there by wrapping a rope of straw around the body. Then hill up 15 inches to keep water from settling around the tree.

REASONS FOR SAID CULTURE.

Plowing instead of digging holes prevents the two extremes from injuring trees, viz: water and drought, and better promoting the growth of the root. The ashes, soap and suds prevent the borers in the roots. The circle of stalks prevents the sun in summer from scorching the cambium, and insures a perfect circulation; also preventing the overgrowth of the tree—the wood becoming hardy.—

Pruning above the outside bud makes it droop like a willow: that shades the body after three years growing of corn. Then the trees are banked and the ground sown in clover to hold the frost around the tree until all cold weather is passed. The trees are wrapped to prevent winter killing.

When all cold weather has passed, in the spring, level down the bank and unwrap the trees—repeating the same for three years.

This culture ceases after three years. By this process Peaches can be raised every year, not affected by borers, August suns, winter freezes or late spring frosts—which are the only four causes for the failure of crops.

I claim to be the originator of this culture or theory, and never knew of any one using the same before me.

C. C. HARKER.

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